

W. E. STILES.
PORTABLE TABLE.
APPLICATION FILED MAY 13, 1912.

1,060,295.

Patented Apr. 29, 1913.

Fig 1.

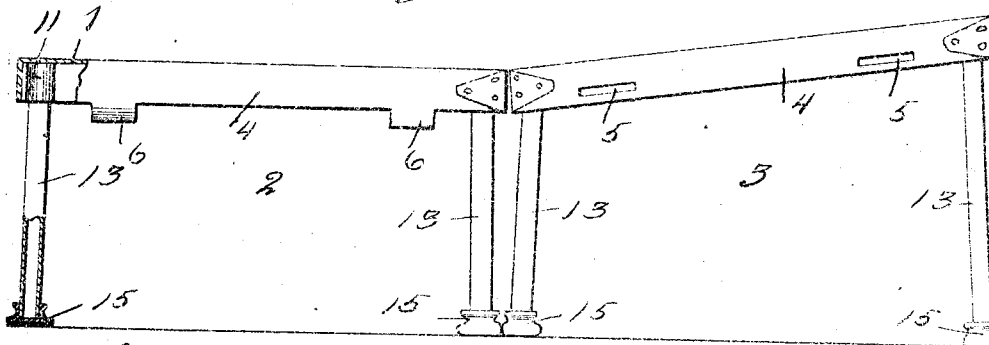
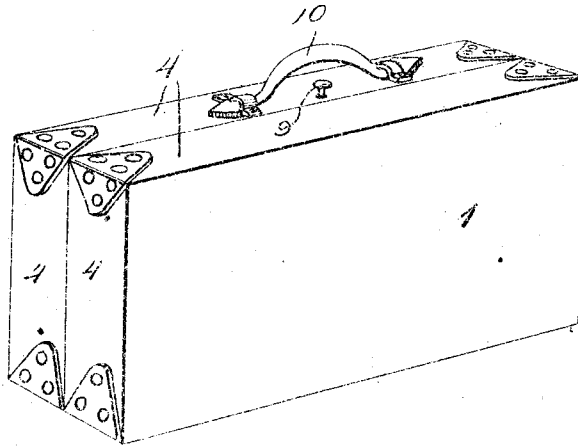


Fig 2.

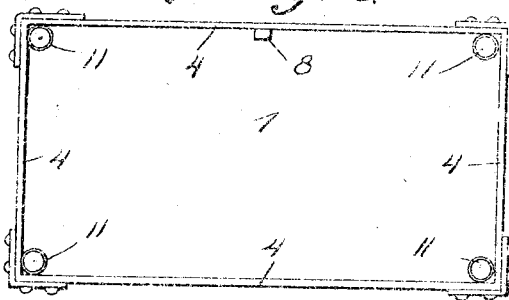
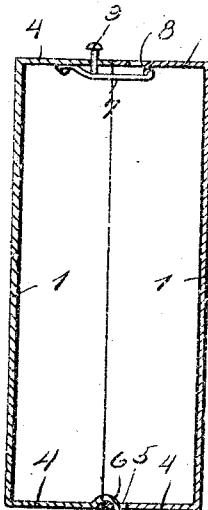


Fig 3.

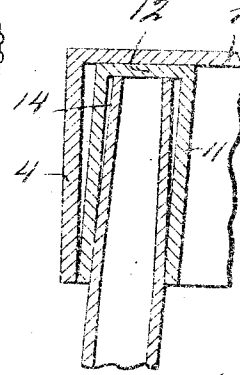


Fig 4.

Fig 5.

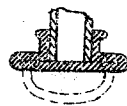


Fig 6.

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PORTABLE TABLE.

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Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM E. STILES, a citizen of the United States, residing at Davenport, in the county of Scott and State of Iowa, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Portable Tables, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention relates to tables and has particular reference to a device of this character formed of parts which may be assembled to form a suitcase-like structure, whereby all of the elements of the table are easily portable.

An important object of this invention is to provide a portable table of the above mentioned character, designed when properly assembled, to support a man, and being strong and light.

A further object of this invention is to provide novel means for detachably connecting the table legs with the table tops.

A further object of the invention is to provide novel and simple means for detachably holding the tops or body portions of the tables in engagement with each other when the device is converted into a suitcase-like structure.

Other objects and advantages of this invention will be apparent during the course of the following description.

In the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification and in which like numerals are employed to designate like parts throughout the same, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the device as converted into a suitcase-like structure, Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the same in its table form. Fig. 3 is bottom plan view of one of the body portions or tops of the table. Fig. 4 is an enlarged detail sectional view taken through one of the holding sockets and showing the upper end of the tubular leg therein. Fig. 5 is a central vertical transverse sectional view through the device in its suitcase form, showing the spring latch and hinge, and, Fig. 6 is an enlarged sectional view through one of the suction cups or caps and associated tubular leg.

In the drawings wherein for the purpose of illustration, I have shown a preferred embodiment of my invention, the numeral 1 designates body portions, which form the tops of the table sections 2 and 3 and the sides of the suitcase-like structure when the

device is converted into that form. The body portions 1 are preferably formed of sheet-metal, are preferably rectangular and are provided with laterally extending flanges 4, as shown. The body portions 1 may preferably have their outer faces covered with leather or the like and other trimmings which resemble a suitcase. When the different parts are assembled to form a suitcase, the flanges 4 may be considered as upper and lower flanges and will be so referred to hereinafter. The lower longitudinal flange 4 of one of the body portions 1 is provided near its ends with elongated slots 5, for receiving curved tongues 6 formed upon the corresponding longitudinal flange 4 of the other body portion 1, for forming a temporary hinge connection between the same. Secured to the inner face of the upper longitudinal flange 4 of the body portion 1 which carries the tongues 6, is a spring catch 7, adapted to engage with a depending tongue 8 formed upon the corresponding upper longitudinal flange 4 of the other body portion 1. The spring latch 7 is moved out of engagement with the tongue 8 by pressing on a reciprocatory pin 9. Connected with the upper longitudinal flange 4 adjacent the pin 9, is a handle 10, of any well known or preferred type. Disposed at the corners of each of the body portions 1 are tubular sockets 11, having their inner ends formed closed, as shown at 12, and their outer ends open. These sockets are rigidly connected with the body portion 1 by any suitable means, preferably by being welded therewith. The sockets 11 may be disposed at slight angles with relation to the body portions 1, depending upon the inclination of the body portion.

Each table section 2 and 3 has four legs 13, which are tubular or square and have the ends thereof which are inserted in the sockets 11, slightly tapered, as shown at 14. As shown in Fig. 4, the lower end of the socket 11 snugly engages the tubular leg 13 which prevents improper lateral movement of the same with relation to the body portion 1. The tapered end of the leg is formed open while the floor engaging end is closed by a rubber cap, cup or bulb 15, which is compressible to expel some of the air from the tubular leg 13 to create a partial vacuum therein.

When the device is in its portable or suitcase form the legs 13 are stored within the body portions 1. The body portions 1 are held together by the hinges and spring latch. When it is desired to convert the device into a table, the pin 9 is depressed which disengages the latch 7 from the tongue 8 and permits of the body portions 1 being swung apart and separated. My table is formed in table-sections 2 and 3. The top 1 of the table-section 2 is horizontal, while the top 1 of the table section 3 is inclined, as shown in Fig. 2, to more conveniently support a man or patient. Each leg 13 when being inserted in the socket 11 has its cap or cup 15 placed in engagement with the floor or otherwise compressed, thus partially expelling air from the tubular leg 13 as the tapered portion thereof is being inserted in the socket 11. The function of tapering the end 14 of the tubular leg is to allow of the passage of the air from the tubular leg in this manner. When, however, the leg has been completely inserted in the socket, the free end portion of the socket snugly engages the leg and forms therewith an airtight connection. In this manner a vacuum is created in the leg 13 which holds it in place within the socket so that the leg will not drop out when the table-section is being moved about or elevated and subjected to jars. It is obvious that the leg 13 may be withdrawn from the socket by proper force applied thereto.

It is to be understood that the form of my invention herewith shown and described is to be taken as a preferred example of the same, and that certain changes in the shape, size, and arrangement of parts may be resorted to without departing from the spirit of the invention or the scope of the subjoined claims.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:—

1. In a device of the character described, a structure adapted to serve as a top of a table, a suitable number of sockets disposed below and attached to said structure, a corresponding number of open ended tubular legs for insertion within said sockets, and a corresponding number of cup-shaped rubber suction elements having their lower ends entirely closed and their upper ends open for receiving the lower open ends of the tubular legs, whereby a partial vacuum may be created within said tubular legs for holding them within the sockets when the suction elements are compressed.

2. In a device of the character described, a plurality of structures adapted when assembled to form a suitcase structure and when separated to form table tops, a suitable number of tubular sockets having their inner ends closed and their outer ends open and rigidly mounted within each of the structures, a corresponding number of open ended tubular legs having corresponding ends slightly tapered and adapted for insertion within said tubular sockets, and a corresponding number of cup-shaped rubber suction elements having their lower ends entirely closed and their upper ends open for receiving therein the ends of the tubular legs, whereby a partial vacuum may be created within said tubular legs for holding them within the tubular sockets when said cup-shaped rubber suction elements are compressed.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM ENOS STILES.

Witnesses:

ALONZO BRYSON,
A. BERGMAN.